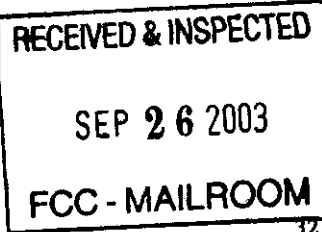


MIDDLEBOROUGH
Gas and Electric Department



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September 19, 2003

Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals II
445 12th Street, SW, Suite 5-A420
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 92-237, DA 03-2739
Next Meeting of the North American Numbering Council

I am writing to urge you to support a nationwide three-digit telephone number for underground utility damage prevention and One Call

The Middleborough Gas & Electric Department is an electric and natural gas utility serving a one-hundred square mile area in Massachusetts and we are actively supporting this important step to protect equipment and lives

Each year, many thousands of dollars of damage is done to utility infrastructure by excavators who fail to contact the regional One Call center before they begin. As you know, one call centers have proven very successful at limiting this damage by providing a single point of contact – a single phone call – to have underground equipment locations safely marked. Because of this success, One Call centers have been established throughout the country, each with their own phone number covering their unique geographical territory

We are asking now that you support this next important and logical step – the establishment of a single nation-wide One Call number. Creating a national three-digit number where all calls would be automatically directed to the appropriate dialer's One Call center will reduce damages and save lives

Just as the average American is familiar with 411 for information, a three-digit number for utility markaton can be easily promoted, remembered and dialed. We believe this number has great potential to help us protect the public and our infrastructure

In addition, we support the comments submitted by the Office of Pipeline Safety to the FCC on August 28, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


James L. Collins
General Manager

ENCLOSURE
LIST ABOVE